DROGUNE

BOOK ONE

WORKING STIFFS

Back in 2016, Adam and I set out to tell the story of *Drogune*; of Wynd and the crew of *Fortune's Lap*.

Our first attempt was what you have now: a decompressed web-comic meant to grow slowly over time.

Unfortunately, we couldn't maintain that format alongside our freelance careers. If *Drogune* was going to thrive, it needed a more focused, faster-paced approach.

Still, we're very proud of our work here. You can see how the style and vision of *Drogune* evolved and took shape over time. We were learning just how demanding it would be to explore this universe we were crafting.

One of the core elements of *Drogune* is acknowledging the past, learning from it, and growing stronger. So that's what this volume will do: collect the past so that we can see how far we've come. Plus you'll have the fun of seeing what changes and what stays the same.

Thanks for reading!
~ Ian

DROGUNE

BOOK I

AJEHIME

-THE UNDERSTORY-

THERE SHE IS...

ALL RIPE FER THE PICKIN'

I'VE GOT THE **FORTUNE** HOLDIN' STEADY. Y'CAN START PREPPIN' FER THE DIVE.

BE RIGHT DOWN!

WOOOOOO

BRRR! WHY'S IT SO COLD, WYND?

NOT ENOUGH LIGHT GETS DOWN HERE, SQUIRT. MAKES IT DARK AND CHILLY, EVEN IN THE SUMMER

JUST THE WAY **MONSTERS** LIKE IT!!!

EEEK!!! QUIT IT!

EVERYTHING IN ORDER?

YUP! GEAR'S ALL GOOD.

SALVAGE FORMS?

SHOULD BE LEGIT...

JOBBUN.

DON'T GET YER TAIL IN A KNOT, FOREN. I KNOW A GUY. NEVER LET ME DOWN BEFORE.

YAWN.

YOU GOT ME ALL HOOKED UP, LISIE?

UMM... YEAH, I THINK SO.

COOL.

THEN HERE I GO!

WYND! WAIT!

YAY!

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WHUNK

AND SHE NAILS THE DISMOUNT!

FORRRREN!

YOU'RE AN AJE!

CLIMB FASTER!

JUST FIND THE FUEL LINE, PLEASE.

THIS IS A GALAXANT TRANSPORT, RIGHT?

FUEL LINE SHOULD BE--

-HERE!

EXCELLENT! AND ONE DAY YOU'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO READ WHAT IT SAYS!

BITE ME.

HOSE SECURED. START THE MANA DRAIN, JOBBUN.

COPY THAT!

AAAAAND, BORED NOW.

BORING IS BORING.

BORING IS GOOD.

WE COULD USE AN EASY DIVE FOR ONCE.

WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE?

IN THE SAME SHROUD AS MY OPTIMISM AND NAIVETY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH WANTING A SIMPLE PAYOUT?

NOTHING YOU FUSSY THING.

QUIT IT!

PAFF

HOLD ON...

I THOUGHT I HEARD--

SHREEE

CHIRONID! RUN!

YOU RUN. IT'S MINE!

YAAAAAAH!

WYND- NO!

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF-NGH!

WE NEED A PAYOUT!

KEEP TABS ON THE DRAIN!

I'LL KEEP THIS THING BUSY UNTIL IT'S DONE!

JOBBUN! WYND DECIDED TO FIGHT A VERY LARGE, VERY ANGRY CHIRONID!

OF COURSE SHE DID.

HOW LONG UNTIL THE BATTERIES ARE DRAINED?

WE'RE ABOUT HALF WAY. GONNA NEED A FEW MINUTES.

IS WYND GONNA BE ALRIGHT?

AW, DON'T YA WORRY NONE.

YER BIG SIS DOES THIS SORTA THING ALL THE TIME.

LIKE TO PLAY ROUGH, DO YA?

FINE!

LET'S PLAY ROUGH!

THROW ME A WAND SO I CAN SUPPORT WYND!

SHKREEK

BUSY! LISIE, FETCH YER UNCLE FOREN A WAND, SWEETIE!

TURN

TURN

M-ME?!

YOU WANTED TO HELP OUT, RIGHT? NOW'S THE PERFECT TIME!

GO TO THE BIG CHEST ON THE PORT SIDE OF THE BAY.

IS THAT LEFT OR RIGHT?

LEFT, DEAR.

...MY LEFT? LOOKING AT THE FRONT OR THE BACK?

THE WALL BEHIND UNCLE JOBBUN.

OKAY! THE ONE WITH THE NUMBERS?

YES! NOW ENTER 6-7-3-4

SIX...

YOU SAID IT TOO FAST!

SIX.

SEVEN.

THREE.

FOUR.

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NOW, TAKE THE IGNIL WAND AND--

WHICH ONE IS THAT...?

IT HAS A LITTLE FLAME SYMBOL.

I GOT IT! I GOT IT!

VERY GOOD! NOW TOSS IT OUT THE BAY DOOR TO ME!

TOSS

KAK KAK KAK

NOBODY SAW THAT. NEVER HAPPENED.

WYND! BACK!

ABOUT TIME!

FWOOMP

WHUD

SHKREEEK

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NICE SHOT!

THANK YOU. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT WAS ITS LAST CHARGE.

SO? I COULD CHARGE AND SHOOT IT MYSELF.

YES, BUT NO ONE ELSE COULD.

I'D RATHER NOT SORT THROUGH A BUNCH OF DUD STICKS IN A PINCH-- AGAIN.

PFFT, WE CAME OUT FINE.

JOBBUN? STATUS?

WE'RE GOOD! COME ON HOME!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THAT BIG. YOU THINK WE DISTURBED IT'S NEST?

THEY'RE HORRIBLE VERMIN SO I DON'T CARE.

YOU'RE HURT!

NAW, IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN SOME CREEPY-CRAWLY TO MESS ME UP.

HOW'D WE DO?

WE'RE FULL UP!

I'LL LINE UP OUR USUAL BUYERS AND WE'LL BE SITTING PRETTY FOR A WHILE.

NICE WORK DOWN THERE, FLEABAG.

LIKEWISE. IT'S NICE TO KNOW YOU'RE GOOD FOR SOMETHING.

ATTENTION, UNAUTHORIZED SHIP!

IN THE NAME OF
SIR VERDIS OF GALAXANT
YOU ARE TO REMAIN
WHERE YOU ARE!

PREPARE TO
BE BOARDED.

...PISS

JOBBUN! PAPERS!
WYND! DISGUISE!
RIGHT! OKAY!
HIDING LISIE FIRST!
IN YOU GO SQUIRT! JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED!
OKAY!
WYND! I'M SCARED!
MWA!
DON'T BE! THE THREE OF US HAVE DONE THIS A HUNDRED TIMES! JUST STAY HERE AND DON'T MAKE A PEEP!

WYND!

EYES!

TAIL!

PHEW

I AM TRENZ OF BOUGH'S BEND, SQUIRE IN SERVICE OF SIR VERDIS.

WHO IS THE CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP?

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I AM

TH' HELL YOU SAY? I PILOT THE SHIP.

WHICH BY DEFINITION MAKES YOU THE **PILOT**.

GRRR

IT'S **MY** SHIP! I'M CAP'N!

IT'S **OUR** SHIP!

SHIP MANIFEST. **NOW.**

I'D IMAGINE THE **CAPTAIN** WOULD BE THE ONE HANDIN' OVER THIS.

FORTUNE'S LAP- NO REGISTERED CAPTAIN. NO REGISTERED CREW. AND THE CUSTOMS ID NUMBER DOESN'T MATCH WHAT WAS AUTO-TRANSMITED WHEN WE APPROACHED.

WE'RE... UH... LOOSELY OPERATED.

THE CODE MUST BE A SIMPLE ERROR MADE BY MY PILOT.

YOU DIRTY HAIRBALL...

ENOUGH.

YOU WERE SCAVENGING FROM A CRASHED GALAXANT TRANSPORT

WE WERE SALVAGING MANA ON A SACTIONED DIVE.

HERE'S THE PAPERS ALL NEAT N' TIDY.

THIS IS A FISHING PERMIT FOR NURMINHIME.

THE WORD "FISH" IS CROSSED OUT AND REPLACED WITH "MANA."

SNAP!

YOU KNOW A GUY, HMMM?

OH, I KNOW A GUY. AND I'M GONNA KILL 'EM!

KRAK

KICK

ARREST THEM.

WE'LL START WITH YOU. NAME?

WYND.

HUME, FEMALE, YOUNG ADULT. GREEN HAIR AND YELLOW... DISPEL THE GLAMOUR ON YOUR EYES.

NO-CAN-DO. IT'S PERMANENT. GOTTA LOOK MY BEST, Y'KNOW.

LEER...

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

NOTE: EYES ARE DISFIGURED.

DROF, GRANITE COMPLEXION, HEFTY BUILD.

NAME?

JOBBUN.

I PAID GOOD MONEY FOR THOSE PAPERS AND... RRRGH!

UHH... WHAT DO I PUT DOWN FOR...?

JUST PUT "DROF" AGAIN, THEY'LL UNDERSTAND!

AJE, MALE, RUDDY COLORATION. NAME?

WHAT OF IT?

PINCH

LITOR OF WHITE LEAF. YOU SAID YOU WERE FROM BOUGH'S BEND?

OH, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY- WE ALL COME FROM DIFFERENT TREES, BUT WE'RE ALL FROM THE SAME FOREST.

...

I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU'RE FROM PIRATE.

EXCUSE ME, SQUIRE, BUT WE ARE **NOT** PIRATES.

WE ARE MANA HUNTERS!

AN ADMISSION OF GUILT?

A DISTINCTION.

PIRATES MURDER AND ROB.

MANA HUNTERS RECOVER AND REDISTRIBUTE MANA.

...FOR A REASONABLE FEE.

"A REASONABLE FEE."

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE IN WHITE LEAF?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

I'LL SAVE YOU A TRIP. IT WAS CLEAR CUT. FOR FUEL.

WHAT?

WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ENERGY CRISIS.

AND WHILE YOU EXTORT THE EVERYMAN WITH YOUR STOLEN MANA-

YOU SIT PRETTY IN YOUR ROYAL PET-BED.

I BEG YOUR PARDON.

YOU HEARD ME. DID YOUR SPIFFY NEW SUIT COME WITH A LEASH WHEN YOU SOLD OUT YOUR REALM, SQUIRE?

HOW **DARE** YOU!

I'M NOT THE ONE ROBBING GRAVES TO LINE MY OWN POCKETS!

NAH! YOU'RE FILLING THE GRAVES TO DO IT!

WYND!

BOUGH'S BEND IS A SMALL QUEENDOM. IT'S ONE OF THE SMALLER BRANCHES OF DOMINANT CROWN.

SO?

SO- EVEN IF IT'S SMALL AND FORGETABLE, IT WOULD BE QUITE THE POLITICAL *FAUX PAUS* IF GALAXANT WERE TO FELL THE FOREST OF ONE OF THEIR OWN SQUIRES.

WE ALL DO WHAT WE CAN TO PROTECT OUR TREES- AM I RIGHT?

...VERY ASTUTE OF YOU.

SQUIRE, IF I MAY...

CLEARLY THIS WAS ALL A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING BY A BUNCHA RUBES.

ARRESTIN' US, IMPOUNDIN THE SHIP- THAT'S A LOT O' TIME AND PAPERWORK.

HOWSABOUT YOU JUST TAKE THE MANA.

IT BELONGS TO GALAXANT ANYWAY.

YOU GIVE US A STERN WARNING N' WE'LL GET OUTTA YER WAY.

WE'LL BE CONFISCATING THE ILLEGALY SIEZED MANA AND YOU WILL BE FINED.

V-VERY GENEROUS OF YOU, MA'AM

SIXTY...

EIGHTY...

FOUR-HUNDRED.

REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE THE DAY YOUR TREE FELL, MISTER LITOR.

I WILL.

I'LL REMEMBER WHERE YOU STOOD TO.

GHHNN-N-N-N-N

RRRRRRRRGH!

I HATE GALAXANT!

I'LL GET US MOVIN'.

I COULD'VE TAKEN EACH OF THOSE SELF-RIGHTEOUS ASSHOLES!

PAT PAT

PROBABLY. AND THAT WOULD'VE EXPOSED WHAT YOU ARE TO THE REST OF THE REALM.

RRRRGH! I HATE HAVING TO HIDE LIKE THIS!

I KNOW. QUICK THINKING WITH THE GLAMOUR BIT THOUGH.

THANKS.

SIGH I'M GONNA GO GET LISIE. SHE'S GOTTA BE WORRIED SICK BY NOW.

INDUBITABLY

HEY SQUIRT! COAST IS CLEAR!

COME ON OUT!

I CAN'T! I'M STUCK!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? I WAS AS STRONG AS JOBBUN AT YOUR AGE.

YEAH, WELL, I'M STILL LITTLE!

WAS IT GAHL-AHX-ANT?

YUP. BUNCHA JERKS.

AREN'T THEY SUPPOSED TO BE THE PROTECTORS?

SUPPOSED TO BE, YEAH.

...

THEN ARE WE THE BAD GUYS?

....

IT'S LIKE THIS-

EVERYTHING NEEDS MANA TO RUN, RIGHT?

RIGHT!

EXCEPT THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH OF IT TO GO AROUND.

GALAXANT- AND PRETTY MUCH ALL OF HUMEHIME- GOBBLE UP MOST OF IT- LIKE THIS!

OM-NOM-NOM-NOM

EEE-HEE-HEE!

SO THE OTHER REALMS NEED POWER.

MANA HUNTERS LIKE US FIND IT AND SELL IT TO FOLKS WHO NEED IT.

BUT WHY DON'T THEY SHARE THE MANA WITH EVERYONE?

LIKE I SAID- GALAXANT IS A BUNCHA JERKS.

GO SAY HEY TO FOREN. HE NEEDS SOME CHEERING UP.

EEK! OKAY!

THE CANOPY

...AND YER SURE ABOUT THIS?

AS SURE AS LAST TIME. MEET ME AT THE ROCK CUTTING ARENA IN RUBY POINT.

ALREADY LANDED US ANOTHER DIVE?

YUP. I KNOW A GUY. GONNA LINK UP WITH HIM IN DROFHIME

YER THE BEST! SEE YOU IN A FEW!

UGH...
TRAFFIC.

YER WELCOME TO GET OUT AND WALK IF YER IN A HURRY.

FLYING THROUGH THE ETHER WOULD BE EASIER.
WOOSH!
STRAIGHT THROUGH TO THE NEXT REALM!

SOME FOLKS DO IT. MOST OF 'EM DIE TRYIN'. NOT TOO FOND OF THEM ODDS.

NAH!
YOU'RE A GOOD ENOUGH PILOT TO GET US THROUGH. AIN'T THAT RIGHT - **CAPTAIN JOBBUN?**

HAHAHAH!
DON'T YOU GO TEMPTIN' ME!

VWEEEEE—

ARE WE GONNA BE ABLE TO CLEAR CUSTOMS?

SHOULD BE FINE.

EVEN IF THAT SQUIRE FILED A PRIORITY REPORT ON US, WE'D BE HALF A REALM AWAY BEFORE IT PROCESSED.

BEISIDES, I GOT US PAPERS TO GET THROUGH. I KNOW A GUY.

GRNK

UH-HUH. SAME GUY WHO SOLD YOU THE SALVAGE LICENSE?

NO! AND I CHECKED TO BE SURE!

I'LL GO HIDE LISIE AGAIN.

I GOT IT UNDER CONTROL!

HAHAHA!

ZWOOOOOOOO

FOREN?

MAY I COME IN?

OH?

WYND SAID YOU WERE GRUMPY. AND... AND...

...OF COURSE. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

I'M FINE. I CAME TO CHECK ON YOU?

...AND YOU ALWAYS GET GRUMPY WHEN WE GO TO AJEHIME.

ISN'T THAT YOUR HOME? SHOULDN'T GOING HOME MAKE YOU HAPPY?

...YOU WOULD THINK THAT.

THREE.
TWO.
ONE.
LAUNCH!
HA HA HA!
I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN GRUMPY.
IT WAS A VERY TIRING DAY, BUT I DON'T MEAN TO GRUMP AT YOU.
I AM. I PROMISE.
AND YOU'RE OKAY?
...OKAY ENOUGH TO MAKE PAMCAKES?
NOOOOO!
AH-HAAA! IS THAT THE REAL REASON YOU CAME DOWN HERE.
MAYBE.
HA HA HA!

RMRM

RMRM

WYND! FOREN'S GONNA MAKE PAMCAKES!

crackle...

crackle...

crackle...

crackle...

SWEET! SIGN ME UP!

I SEE HOW IT IS! A BLASTED CONSPIRACY!

GALAX COLOR

YOU REALLY OUGHT TO DRESS YOUR WOUNDS.

I'M FINE. SEE? ALREADY HEALED UP. MOSTLY.

THEN WASH. IT'S UNSANITARY.

WYND! WYND! WILL YOU READ ME A STORY WHILE FOREN COOKS?

SURE, SQUIRT. GO GET A BOOK.

EXTRA BUTTER IN MINE, YEAH?

I'LL USE WHAT WE HAVE.

YAAAY!

SHHHHHHH

THIS ONE!
THIS ONE!

REALMS OF GALAXANT

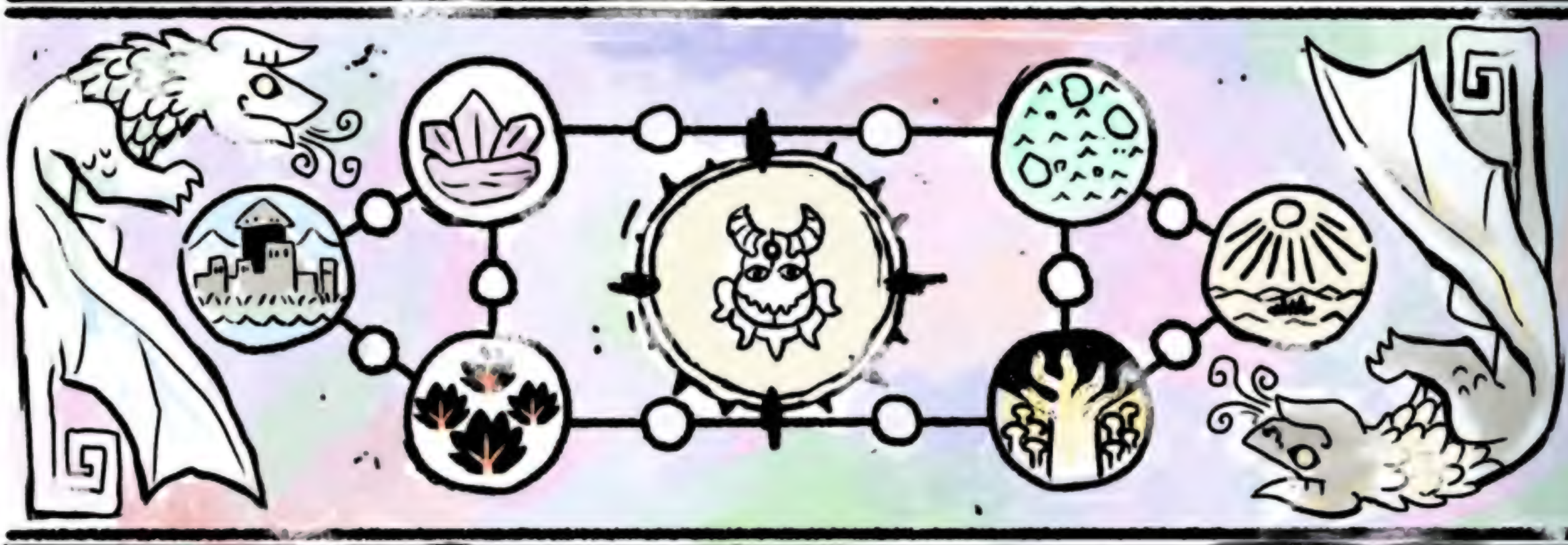
OH WOW!
I HAVEN'T SEEN
THIS IN FOREVER.
WHERE'D YOU
FIND IT?

BURIED IN
YOUR STUFF.

WE'LL MAKE A
MANA HUNTER OUT
OF YOUR YET!

HEE
HEE
HEE!

AHEM.
"WE ALL LIVE IN
GALAXANT..."

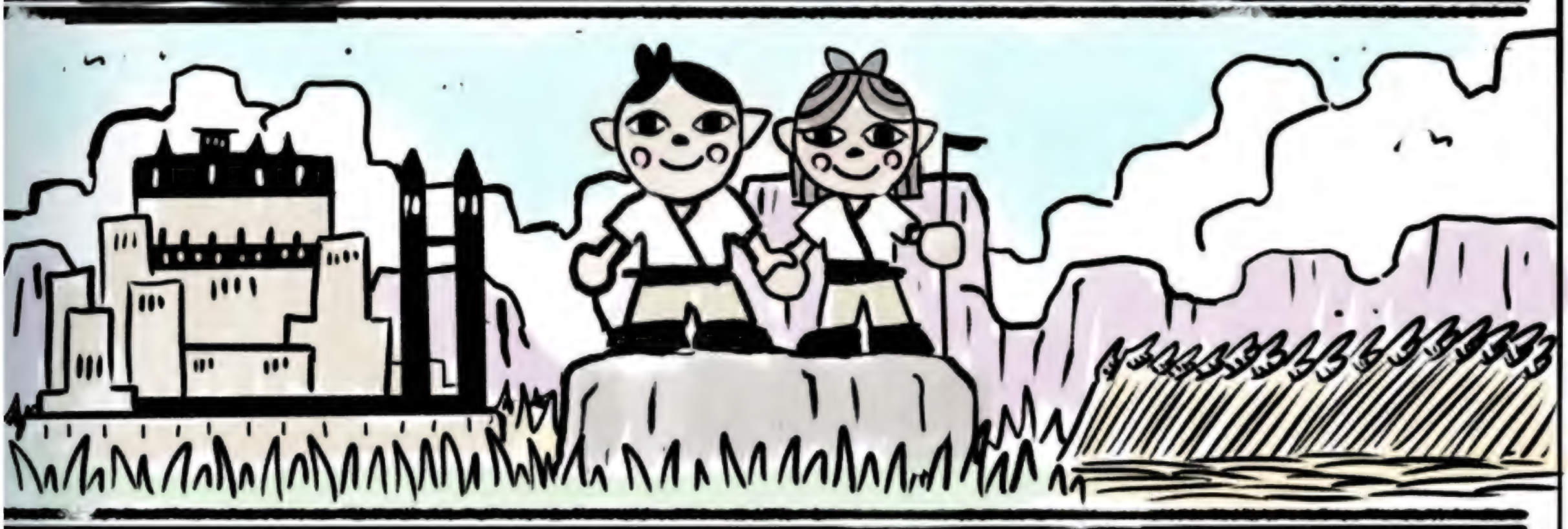


WE ALL LIVE IN GALAXANT

THE KINGDOM THAT ~~RULES~~ CONTROLS THE COSMOS!

THERE ARE MANY REALMS.

LET'S VISIT THEM ALL!



WE ~~ALL LIVE~~ REGULARLY VISIT IN HUMEHIME.

~~THE GREATEST~~ ONE OF THE SIX REALM~~S~~ ~~OF ALL.~~

EVERYONE WORKS HARD AND HAS FUN HERE!

THANK YOU, MARSHALS AND RANGERS, FOR KEEPING US SAFE!

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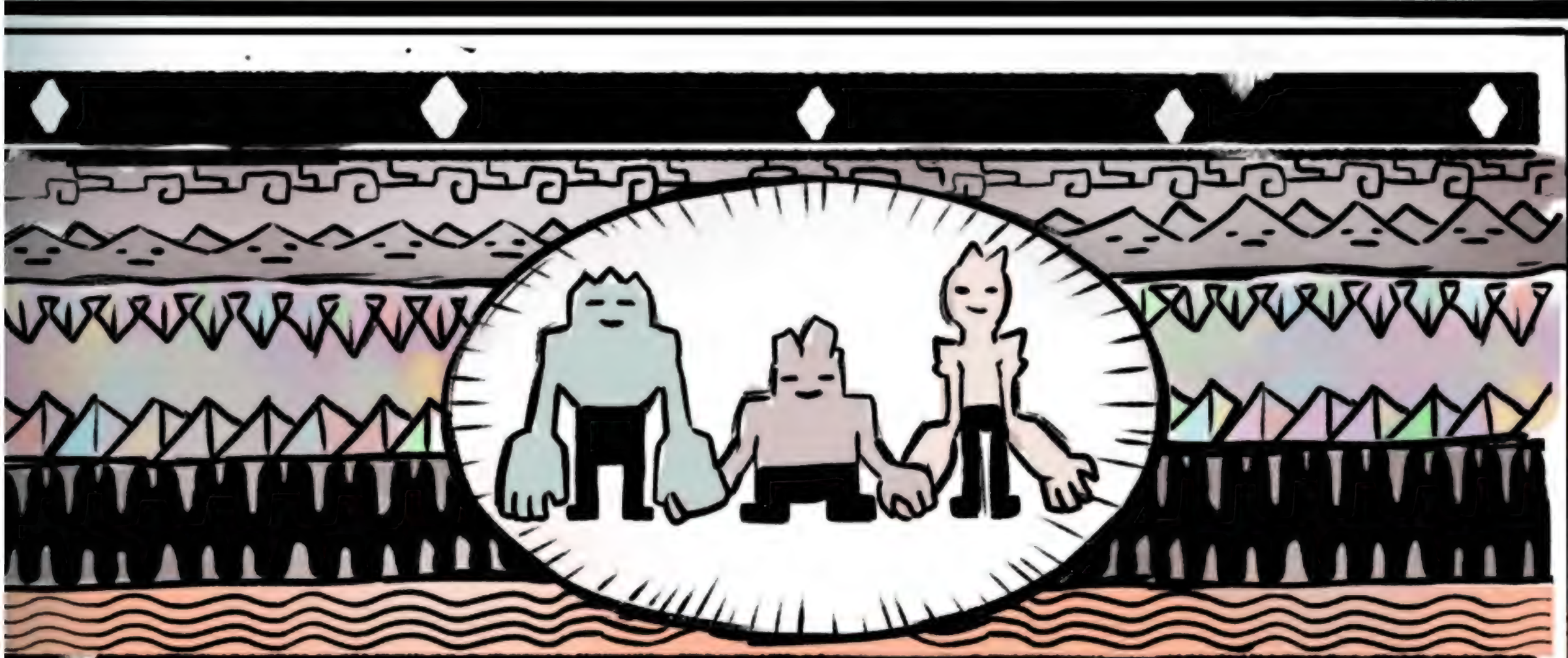
NEXT IS AJEHIME, THE REALM OF TREES!

THE AJE LIVE HERE. THEY HAVE LONG TAILS AND FUR!

THEY ~~TEND TO~~ HAVE MANY KINGDOMS JUST LIKE US.

REMEMBER ~~SILLY~~ AJE! THERE IS ONLY ONE KING OF GALAXANT ~~OUR~~ KING ARCTURUS!



NOW WE'RE IN DROFHIME, THE REALM OF STONE!

THE DROF ARE HARD WORKERS WHO HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF SKILLS AND HOBBIES ~~DO WHAT THEY'RE TOLD~~.

THEY ARE A ROCK-LIKE ~~THAT ACT LIKE PEOPLE~~!

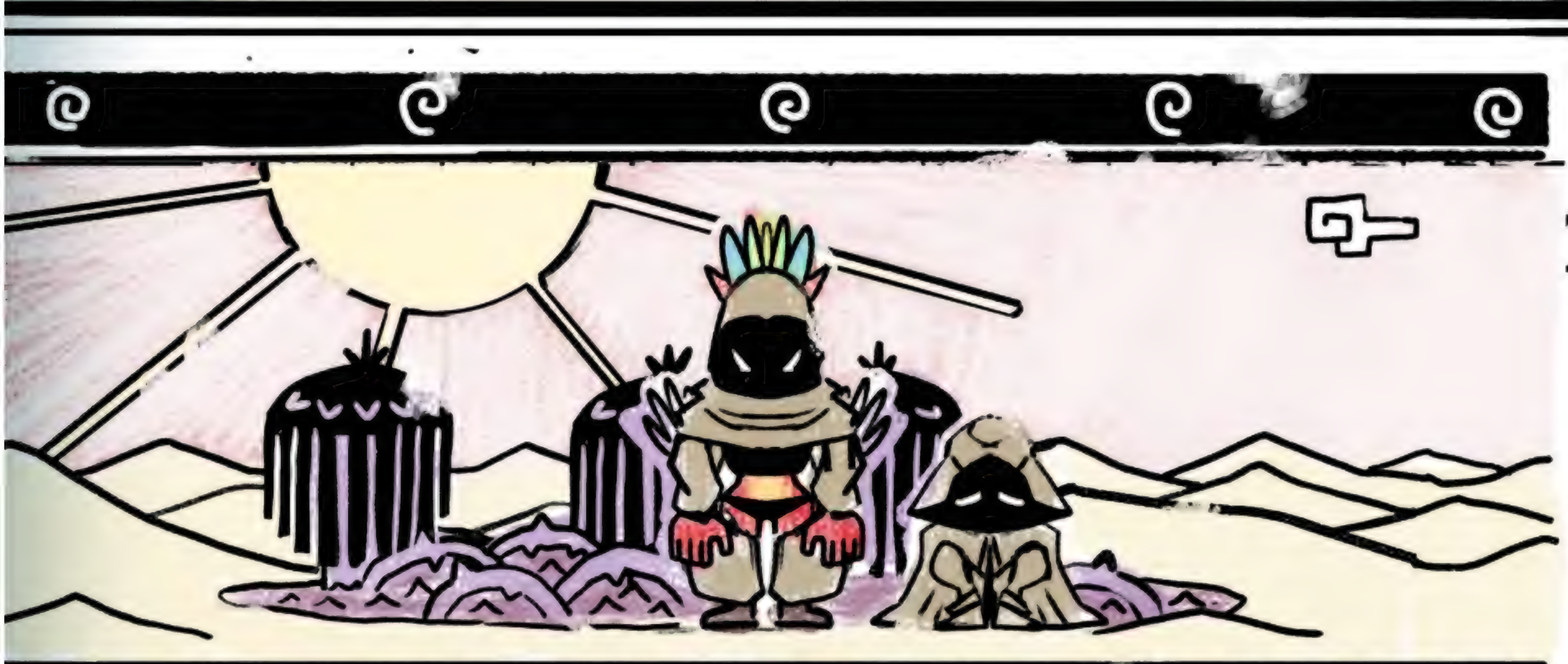
THEY DO NOT HAVE BOYS OR GIRLS AND IT WORKS FINE FOR THEM. ~~HOW CONFUSING!~~

HERE WE ARE IN ENCHANTIHIME!

THE ENCHANTI~~LOOK LIKE GIANT BUGS~~! HAVE MANY KINDS OF WINGS

THEY'RE RULED BY ~~WE LET THEM HAVE A~~ QUEEN ~~TO~~ TITANIA WHO LOOK AFTER THEM

SHE IS FORCED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ~~BUT SHE STILL ANSWERS TO OUR~~ FOREVER KING!



WE WON'T STAY LONG IN ORKUNEHIME - IT IS A SCARY REALM!

THE ONLY WATER IS IN ~~NASTY~~ FERTILE BOGS - THE REST IS DESERT!

THE GIRLS ~~ARE BIG AND MEAN THE THE BOYS ARE SAD AND WEAK.~~ RULE AS MATRIARCHS IN CLOSE KNIT FAMILY TRIBES

~~IT MAKES ME GLAD I'M A HUME!~~ THEY'VE LEARNED TO SURVIVE IN THEIR REALM

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SPLISH-SPLASH! LET'S GO FOR A SWIM IN NURMINHIME!

THERE ARE LOTS OF ~~STRANGE CREATURES HERE~~ DIFFERENT KINDS OF NURMIN! ~~SOME CAN EVEN ACT~~ THEY ARE PEOPLE JUST LIKE US!

THEY NEED WATER TO BREATHE, SO THEY DON'T LEAVE HOME OFTEN.
~~SOME OF THEM TASTE GREAT~~ THEY HAVE A ROBUST FISHING MARKET.

ALL OF THE REALMS ARE RULED BY KING ARCTURUS- THE FOREVER KING!

~~THE DROGUNE MADE HIM KING WITH THEIR DIVINE POWERS!~~ HE LIVES IN A BIG CASTLE IN KHAMELOTTE

HIS KNIGHTS OF GALAXANT ~~KEEP ALL~~ POLICE THE REALMS ~~SAFE AND HAPPY~~!

~~THANK YOU, KNIGHTS! THANK YOU, FOREVER KING!~~ THE KNIGHTS AND KING ARE LOOKING FOR DROGUNE.

~~HOORAY FOR GALAXANT~~ BE AWARE. BE SAFE.

BE AWARE.
BE SAFE...

AS THE LADY REQUESTED- PANCAKES.

YAYPAMCAKES.

WYND? WHY WAS THE BOOK ALL SCRATCHED OUT LIKE THAT?

CAUSE... UHH...

IT WAS FULL OF TYPOS. BUT FOREN FIXED IT UP FOR ME!

REALLY?

YEAH. HE USED TO READ IT TO ME ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE.

MMM.

THANKS FOR PROOF READING IT FOR ME.

...ARE ALL KID'S BOOKS LIKE THAT IN HUMEHIME?

NOT JUST HUMEHIME. GALAXANT MAKES SURE TO STOCK THE LIBRARIES AND OVERSEE MEDIA ACROSS THE REALMS.

KEEPS THE MESSAGE CLEAR, YOU SEE. REMINDS US OF **WHAT** WE ARE AND WHERE WE **BELONG**.

UH-HUH.

WE ALSO DIDN'T WANT YOU DEVELOPING A GOD COMPLEX. YOU'RE BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS.

BECAUSE I'M INNATELY AWESOME!

HOW COME WE LOOK SO MUCH LIKE HUME?

NOM

NOBODY KNOWS. WEIRD, HUH?

HEY LISIE! WE'RE AT THE GATEWAY AND ABOUT T' ENTER THE LAYLINE!

WAIT! WAIT! I WANNA SEE!

OI!

HAHA- CAREFUL!

DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING!

PANCAKE THIEF.

MAKE YOUR OWN NEXT TIME.

SKMMM

WOOOOOOW!

YOU USED TO SCREAM IN TERROR AND BEG US NOT TO USE THE LEYLINES.

THAT'S BECUASE LISIE IS MADE OF PURE GOODNESS AND LIGHT.

I'LL LET THE OBVIOUS COMMENT PASS.

IT ISN'T GOING TO LAST, IS IT?

NO. BUT WE'LL PROTECT HER AS LONG AS WE CAN.

ALL RIGHT- YOU GOT TO SEE THE LEYLINE. NOW COME FINISH YOUR FOOD BEFORE IT GETS COLD.

JOBBUN! JOBBUN! CAN I EAT MY PAMCAKES IN HERE AND WATCH THE LEYLINE?

HEH, SURE.

YAAAAAAAAAAAY!

YOU NEVER LET ME EAT IN THE COCKPIT.

'CAUSE YOU NEVER EAT WITH YER GOB SHUT. I DON'T WANT CRUMBS IN MY COCKPIT.

THAT'S IT! FOREN'S THE CAPTAIN!

TREASON!

NO, WAIT...

MUTINY!

DROFHIME

WOOOOOOOO

RUBY POINT

SHOCK GATE

RUBY POINT IS A PRETTY TAME TOWN, BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT TO BE AWARE, GOT IT?

I GOT IT.

OKAY, NOW FOR YOUR EYES. JUST LIKE I SHOWED YOU.

HNNNNNG!

DID I DO IT?!

FIRST TRY! NICE WORK, SQUIRT.

NOW REMEMBER: DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS.

DON'T ACCEPT GIFTS FROM ANYBODY.

DON'T APPROACH THE VENDORS. LET...

I KNOW.

I KNOW.

I KNOW!

DO YOU? DO YOU REALLY?

LET'S GO OVER THE RULES AGAIN- JUST TO BE SURE!

FOREN! WYND IS BEING MEAN TO ME!

SHE NAGS BECUASE SHE CARES.

STEP LIVELY, CHILDREN.

HOW ARE WE ON TIME?

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE. MY GUY WANTS TO MEET AT THE ARENA.

USE THE ROCK CUTTING EVENT AS COVER.

MMM. THAT MIGHT BE A BIT TOO MUCH FOR LISIE... WYND, TAKE HER SHOPPING UNTIL WE GET BACK.

AWWW! WHAT?!

YEAH, THAT'S PROBABLY FOR THE--

WAIT. WHO'S THE SLAB?

KILLIMON!

AWWW! WHAT?!

I AM NOT MISSING THAT! WE'RE COMING!

I HELPED WITH THE WAND, DIDN'T I?

I WANNA COME TOO!

I WANNA COME TOO!

FINE! WE'RE ALL GOING!

KI-LI-MON! KI-LI-MON!

WOOHOO!

YAY!

RAAAA-

NOOO...

AAAAA

WOOOO!

KI-LI-MON!

KKRAK

KI-LI-MON!

YEAH!

CRUSH EM!

YEEEAH!
WOOO!

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ARE... ARE THEY HURTING THAT BIG DROF?

WAH? NAH!

KILIMON IS HARDER THAN STEEL! TOUGHER THAN DIAMOND!

RRRGH!

OKAY, SO IT GETS A BIT ROUGH.

BUT ROCK CUTTING DATES BACK TO PRE-HISTORY! AND NOWADAYS IT'S MORE ABOUT THE SPECTACLE THAN BEIN' A BLOOD SPORT.

...BLOOD SPORT?

YEAH!

CUT HIM DOWN TO SIZE!

GRAVEL! MAKE IT GRAVEL!

D-DID ALL THESE HUME COME HERE JUST TO SEE THE FIGHT?

HUH? OH- YEAH! EVERY ONE OF THE QUARRYMEN ARE A-LEAGUE THIS ROUND!

UM...OH. AND THE DROF? WHY ARE THEY WATCHING ONE OF THEIRS GET BEAT-UP

WHA

YAAAAAAY!

CRUNCH

THAT'S WHY.

YEAH!

WOO!

C'MON KILIMON! PUT THE NEXT ONE INTO ORBIT!

Y-YAY KI-LI-MON! UM.. DO GOOD!

DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE ME CLIMB ALL THE WAY TO THE NOSEBLEEDS, MISTER FOREN?

APOLOGIES. OUR "LUXURY BOX FUND" WENT TO A GALAXANT FINE.

YOU'RE THE CONTACT?

YOU CAN CALL ME **YORICK.**

DID JOBBUN TELL YOU WHAT I FOUND?

ANOTHER UNTOUCHED DROGUNE TEMPLE OF HUMEHIME.

RIGHT. DEEP IN THE FORESTS OF BRAVE BARONY.

CRASH

I'M SURPRISED YOU'D TRUST US WITH ANOTHER SUCH DIVE.

WE DIDN'T EXACTLY SUCEED LAST TIME.

THE FOREVER KING HAS A KNIGHT PATROLLING **SPECIFICALLY** FOR DROGUNE RELICS ON HUMEHIME. IT'S NO SURPRISE YOU GOT PINCHED. IF ANYTHING IT'S AMAZING YOU GOT OUT ALIVE.

IT'S THE SAME DEAL AS BEFORE. IT'S A DANGEROUS DIVE, MAYBE MORE DANGEROUS **NOW**, BUT THE POTENTIAL RICHES ARE INCALCULABLE.

I'LL BE TAKING A LARGER CUT THIS TIME, OF COURSE.

YAAA

AAAH

COUGH COUGH

AH. THERE'S THE RUB.

I'M ALSO CURIOUS HOW YOU'VE MANAGED TO FIND TWO LONG-LOST DROGUNE SITES IN A MATTER OF MONTHS-

-WHEN GALAXANT HASN'T IN GENERATIONS.

TRADE SECRET.

YOU DON'T ASK ABOUT THAT, AND I WON'T ASK WHY YOU BOUGHT YOURSELF A **LITTLE GIRL** SINCE LAST TIME.

WE DID NOT **BUY** HER!

SHE WAS AN ORPHAN! WE TOOK HER IN!

YOUR BOAT, YOUR RULES.

JUST... JUST GIVE ME THE COORDINATES!

HERE YOU GO. SAFE TRAVELS.

FOUL!

FOUL!

WHERE'S THE REF?!

GET THE GOODS?

YES. YOUR CONTACT IS A GUTTER-MINDED SLEAZE.

HEH, TAKES ALL TYPES.

BUT WHO CARES WHEN WE HAVE ENOUGH DOSH TO BUY OUR OWN MOON, EH? EH?

...TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS, AS THEY SAY.

...WHICH MEANS SHE CAN'T MAKE A LATERAL CUT UNTIL THE ASSIGNED DECOY IS AT LEAST A METER AWAY!

OKAY!

SO THEY SHOULD'VE CALLED A FOUL AND HAD A PENALTY, BUT THEY DIDN'T AND IT'S STUPID! GET IT?

...NO!

THEN JUST SCREAM WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO.

GO MISTER DROF! DON'T GET HURT!

ATTAGIRL.

THAT WAS EXCITING! AND THE CUTTER PEOPLE ARE GONNA BE OKAY RIGHT?

UH... SURE. THEY'VE GOT SOME GREAT HEALERS ON-SITE.

HOW EXACTLY DID YOU FIND OUR CONTACT?

OH, I DIDN'T. I KNOW A GUY WHO LINKS UP ALL SORTS OF CONTRACTS. HE POINTED US TO OUR "CLIENT."

YOU ARE NOT FILLING ME WITH CONFIDENCE.

LOOK, I'VE GOTTEN US ENOUGH SOLID DIVES, AIN'T I? **TRUST** ME.

AND YOU FOUND YOUR GO-BETWEEN... HOW?

I KNOW A GUY WHO KNEW A GUY WHO ASKED AROUND. ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER AND- BOOM! -PAYDIRT!

FOREN-

FOREN-

FOREN!

CAN I HAVE A HAT? PLEASE- PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEAS

HUME MERCH

KILL MOK

AND SOMETHING TO EAT? I'M STARVING.

I'M SORRY, BUT WE SIMPLY DON'T HAVE THE FUNDS.

GROAN-

PLEEEEEASE?!

AAARGH- C'MON! JUST A SAUSAGE OR SOMETHING?

IT ISN'T UP TO ME. THE JOB ON AJEHIME FELL THROUGH AND NOW WE'RE BROKE.

CLAW

CLAW

SOLUTION! WE FIND A QUICK LOCAL GIG AND GET PAID!

AND -WOT- COME BACK FOR STREET MEAT?

WHY MUST YOU CRUSH MY HOPES AND DREAMS?

YEA!

WE ALREADY HAVE A GIG LINED UP, AND IT SHOULD PAY **EXCEEDINGLY** WELL

BUT HAAAAAT...

FOR NOW WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT'S ONBOARD THE *FORTUNE*.

FINE, FINE. WHAT DO WE HAVE TO COOK?

AT THIS POINT?

FLOUR, OIL, AND WATER. SO...

PAMCAKES. WOO!

FOR REAL? I NEED SOME PROTEIN, FOREN!

TIMES LIKE THESE I'M GLAD I DON'T NEED TO EAT...

BWOOP

HUMEHIME -
BRAVE BARONY

YAWN

MORNIN',
SUNSHINE.

MMPFF,
EXCUSE ME.

GOOD MORNING.

WE'RE ABOUT
AN HOUR OUTSIDE
THE TEMPLE, GOIN'
BY THE DISK.

MM-HMM.
ANY TROUBLE AT
THE GATEWAYS?

CLEAR SAILIN'
OUT OF DROFHIME,
AND NOT A PEEP
ENTERIN' HUMEHIME.

BUT BETWEEN
THAT TRIP TO THE ARENA
N' THE TOLLS, WE'RE
OFFICIALLY **BROKE**.

WE **NEED** THIS
DIVE TO GO
RIGHT, FOREN

ROOTS BELOW
AND STARS ABOVE...

THEN PRAY
NORDASTRA
GUIDES US
RIGHT.

LISTEN UP! WE DON'T WANT A RERUN OF WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME.

JOBBUN! TAKE US A KLICK OUTSIDE OF THIS TEMPLE. THEN THROW UP EVERY CLOAKING WARD AND DETECTION SPELL WE HAVE LEFT.

AYE-AYE!

CLICK

WYND! YOU AND I WILL STOCK UP ON AS MUCH MANA AS WE CAN CARRY.

I KNOW RESEARCHING THE TEMPLE WOULD MEAN A LOT TO YOU BUT--

RELAX. I'LL TEAR IT TO THE GROUND IF IT MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO EAT ANOTHER PANCAKE.

LISIE!

I KNOW.
STAY ON THE SHIP, DON'T BUG UNCLE JOBBUN, BE A GOOD GIRL...

BOOTS ON, LITTLE MISS. YOU'RE COMING WITH US.

I AM?!

SHE IS?

YAAAAAA

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAYYYYY!

WE WE'RE HAPPILY SURPRISED TO FIND THE LAST TEMPLE RESPONDED TO YOU.

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY LISIE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCESS REGIONS AS WELL.

YOU'RE RIGHT. GOOD IDEA.

I HAVE MY MOMENTS.

SLAM!

I'M READY!

I'LL HELP CARRY MANA TOO!

ZIP

SETTIN' HER DOWN NOW. YOU'LL BE HEADIN' STRAIGHT NORTH.

QUICKLY NOW, LADIES.

I CAN BE QUICK!

I'LL KEEP UP!

YOU FOUND A DROGUNE TEMPLE BEFORE?

YUP! IT'S WHERE WE FOUND YOU!

GASP!

REALLY?! TELL ME- TELL ME- TELL ME-!

IT WAS A LOT LIKE THIS DIVE- GOOD INTEL ON A DROGUNE TEMPLE GALAXANT HADN'T FOUND YET.

HUNTING DOWN DROGUNE ARTIFACTS IS RISKY BUSINESS NO MATTER WHAT, BUT ON HUMEHIME, IT'S ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS.

BUT WE NEEDED A BIG SCORE, AND YOU DON'T GET MUCH BIGGER THAN THAT.

CAW

CAW

WHAT HAVE WE GOT?

LOOKS LIKE A BIOMETRIC SCANNER. LUCKY FOR US I KNOW A GUY WHO HAS ALL SORTS OF LOCK-PICKS.

GIMMIE TWENTY MINUTES AND I'LL HAVE US IN THERE!

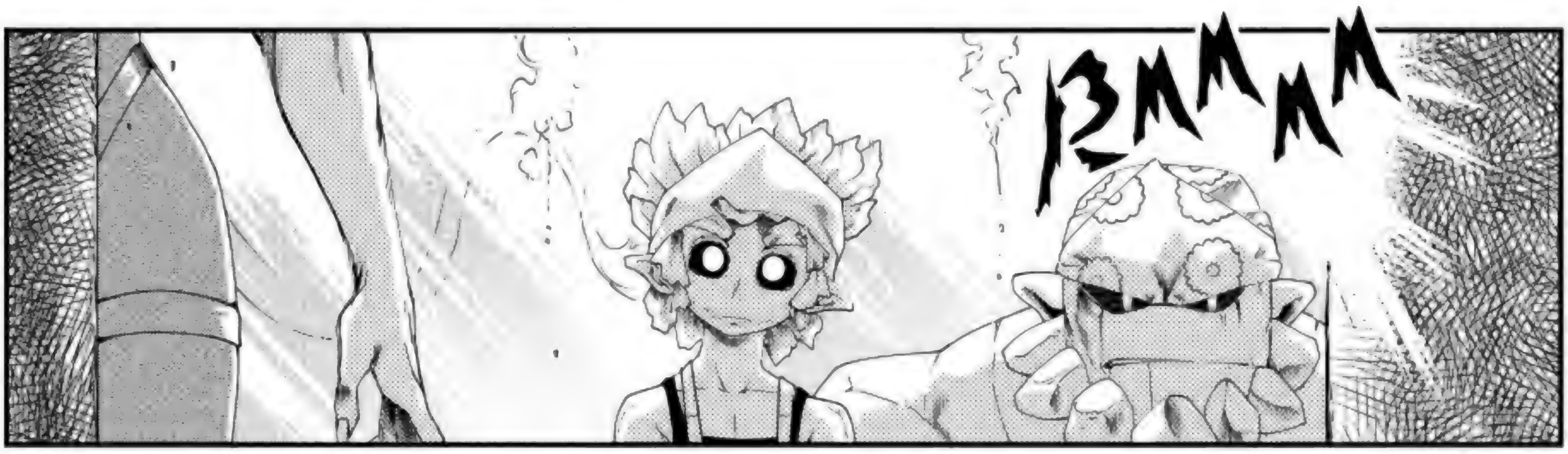
THIS PLACE IS DROGUNE-BUILT, RIGHT? MAYBE IT'LL OPEN IF I ASK IT NICELY? HAHA!

SLAP!

SLAP!

DEET!

RUMBLE


BMMMM

DMM...
YOU KNOW HOW I'M ALWAYS TELLING YOU TO KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF?
YEAH?

TOUCH EVERYTHING.

LOOK! A CONTROL PANEL MAYBE...?

OKAY... UMM...

WAKEY-WAKEY!

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POP

FZZSHT

FZZSHT

KRAK

BWOOO

SO? WE'LL MIX IN SOME DUST, RUN IT THROUGH A COMPRESOR, AND STILL PRODUCE HIGH-GRADE BATCHES OFF ONE OF THESE!

THE GOOD TIMES ARE FINALLY HERE!

WEIRD... THESE ALMOST LOOK FAMILIAR...

WYND! ENOUGH SIGHT-SEEING!

WE NEED TO GATHER UP AS MUCH AS WE CAN AND GET OUT OF HERE!

IT'S MY HERTIAGE, DAMMIT! LET ME LOOK!

'SIDES- I THINK I FOUND A VAULT OR SOMETHING.

VAULT?

FOLKS TEND TO KEEP VERY NICE THINGS IN VAULTS!

YES! THEY MOST CERTAINLY DO!

CRINKLE...

SHHVVP!

KINDA SPARSE. JUST SOME OLD CLOTHES AND...

VWWWW

...A BOX. GUYS? HELLO?

ITS ANOTHER ONE.

WHAT'RE THE ODDS?

THAT'S THE SAME KIND OF CASE WE FOUND YOUR EGG IN.

YOU MEAN... THIS MIGHT HAVE...?

KRAK!

VM!

VM!

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DROGUNE

BOOK 1 • WORKING STIFFS

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